From: Will Francis
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 4:45pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The proposed settlement does very little to limit the scope of Microsoft's anti-competative and anti-consumer acts. Microsoft's "embrace and extend" policy attempts to have solely them control any standard into their own defacto standard therefore not allowing anyone to compete in any meaningful way. Whenever another company invents something novel which may compete meaningfully with a Microsoft product, those companies are either bought outright, or Microsoft "innovates" those same services into their Operating System such that it's pointless to purchase the original competitors products. Java is such a perfect example where Microsoft licensed Java and then "extended" it in such a way that broke compatibility with the original version. This allow Microsoft with it's massive installed base to become the defacto controller of Java. Thankfully, Microsoft lost in court against Sun, but to counter that, they simply stopped shipping Java with their products and invented their own Java-like language. Obviously the same pattern can be said about their browser, their media client, Office products, games, email clients and many more.

In my opinion, Microsoft should be broken up into two companies:

- 1. An OS company
- 2. Everything else

Allow other companies to provide services for the OS on a level playing field as Microsoft itself. As long as Microsoft can grow their OS to include whatever industry they which to dominate next, few will dare to compete with them.

Thank you.

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